

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed August 3, 2007 has been carefully considered and the following is responsive thereto. Claims 1-27 are pending in the application.

The Examiner has required restriction between:

Group I: Claims 1-15, 18, 19 and 22 drawn to a delivery system comprising an active agent and a gel film, the gel film comprising a low viscosity guar gum, optionally a plasticizer, a second film, former, a bulking agent, and a pH controlling agent;

Group II: Claims 16 and 17 drawn to a method of making gel film delivery systems comprising a guar gum;

Group III: Claims 20 and 25 drawn to a delivery system comprising an active agent and a gel film, wherein the gel film comprises a low viscosity polymannan gum, optionally a plasticizer, a second film former, a bulking agent, and a pH controlling agent;

Group IV: Claim 21 drawn to a process for preparing a gel film delivery system containing polymannan gum;

Group V: Claims 23 and 24 drawn to a delivery system consisting of a low viscosity guar gum, a bulking agent, an active substance, and water; and

Group VI: Claims 26 and 27 drawn to a delivery system consisting of a low viscosity polymanan gum, a bulking agent, an active substance, and water.

Applicants provisionally elect for examination the claims in Group I (claims 1-15, 18, 19 and 22) with traverse. Applicants submit that the claims of Groups I, III, V and VI can be searched together without undue burden on the Examiner. The Examiner indicated that the claims of Group I (claims 1-15, 18, 19 and 22), Group III (claims 20 and 25), Group V (claims 23 and 24) and Group VI (claims 26 and 27) are all classified in class 424, subclass 400+. It would therefore not be an undue burden on the Examiner to search the same class and subclass for the claims of Groups I, III, V and VI together. Further, Applicants submit that it would not be an undue burden on the Examiner to search the claims of Groups II and IV together, as the Examiner indicated that the claims of Group II (claims 16 and 17) and Group IV (claim 21) are

both classified in class 424, subclass 400+. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the present restriction requirement.

The Examiner also alleged that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: films with plasticizer and films without plasticizer. Applicants were required to elect a species for prosecution on the merits. Applicants elect films with plasticizers. In provisionally elected Group I, claims 1-15, 18 and 19 read on the elected species.

An early and favorable Office Action on the merits is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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